



TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN

MASSACHUSETTS

FIRE DEPARTMENT / EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

146 Washington Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719

Phone: 508 994-1428 Fax: 508 994-1515

Emergency # 911



Items to Bring to an Emergency Shelter

No one ever wants to go to a shelter. But being prepared and taking some personal items with you makes the stay a little more comfortable. If you have a to-go-bag already organized bring it. If not, here are some ideas of what you could bring with you. It is important to remember that an emergency shelter is a life raft not a yacht. WE try to make the shelter as comfortable as possible.

Shelters are cramped, crowded, noisy, and stuffy. People handle stressful situations differently, and some will appear to be nervous or agitated. Tempers may flare. There will be long lines to restrooms and not much privacy. Don't expect showers or hot meals. Luxury goes out the window during an emergency.

Listen to the shelter and emergency personnel. They will have important news and instructions during the emergency that you need to know about. Be prepared to act quickly should they need to move everyone to a new location. Don't leave the shelter until told it is safe to do so.

The primary shelter in Fairhaven is the Elizabeth I Hastings Middle School on School Street.

Food

The shelter normally provides food. If you want comfort food or you are on a special diet or have restrictions due to religious practices, you should bring your own food.

Clothing & Bedding

You should have two changes of clothing. Have an additional pair of sturdy shoes and foul weather gear. Usually there is a cot, but not always is there bedding. A sleeping bag, blanket and pillow would make it more comfortable to sleep.

Personal Items

The shelters have bathing facilities. Bring toiletries that you need for bathing and freshening up. A washcloth and towel would be handy. Many shelters have first aid kits, but you can bring your own too. Don't forget your prescription medicines. Special items for infants (clothes, diapers, food/formula, bottles and nipples, food, small toys, blankets, portable crib, etc.)

Important Documents and Information

Contact information for your relatives, in particular a relative outside the incident area. Contact information of your doctors and list of medicines that you take and what they are for. Photograph of family, in case someone(s) is missing. Papers that show proof of: insurance, ownership, kinship etc.

Miscellaneous

Cell phone and charger, radio, and flashlight are all important to have. Don't forget the items to occupy your mind like, games, cards, toys and books. Bring earplugs to help you sleep. Cash, checkbooks, and credit cards (during a power outage, cash may be your only option).

Not Allowed

Alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs and weapons are not allowed in shelters. Smoking is not allowed in the shelters either.

Volunteering and Donations

If you're able to assist, help is often needed during shelter operations. Reach out to the shelter manager and sign up to help. While we appreciate offers to help, donations of food cooked at home or donations of used items are not accepted at shelters.

Practice Patience

You may be in the shelter for several days. Remember to be respectful and considerate of others. Try to remain calm, and offer help where needed. It may not be an ideal situation, but try to make the best of things until the crisis passes.